

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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R 181630Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 763

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: LAST ROUND OF PARTY MANIFESTATIONS IN MEDELLIN: TWO DOWN AND  
TWO TO GO

SUMMARY: ANAPO AND UNO HAVE HELD THEIR FINAL MASS RALLIES IN MEDELLIN

WITH THE LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES SCHEDULED SHORTLY. THE ANAPO  
RALLY  
WAS FAR SMALLER THAN ANAPO RALLIES AT SIMILAR STAGES OF THE CAMPAIGN  
IN 1970  
AND 1972. THE UNO RALLY WAS ENTHUSIASTIC BUT ONLY ABOUT HALF  
THE SIZE OF THE WEAKENED ANAPO'S. BOTH RALLIES WERE CARRIED OUT WITH  
OUT  
INCIDENT. END SUMMARY

1. 1. THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE ENGAGED IN THE FINAL ROUND OF MASS  
POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN MEDELLIN. ANAPO HELD ITS MANIFESTATION  
MARCH 8 AND UNO MARCH 15. THE LIBERAL RALLY WILL BE MARCH 22, AND THE

CONSERVATIVES ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING THEIRS FOR APRIL 5. THE ANAPO

AND UNO RALLIES TOOK PLACE IN THE DOWNTOWN PARQUE BERRIO. THE LIBERALS

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AND CONSERVATIVES HAVE NOT FINALLY DECIDED WHETHER TO HOLD THEIR RALLIES

IN PARQUE BERRIO OR IN THE MUCH LARGER PARQUE CISNEROS. THE CONSUL OBSERVED BOTH THE ANAPO AND UNO RALLIES FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OF A BUILDING OVERLOOKING THE PARK.

2. TO THE LIMITED EXTENT THAT MASS POLITICAL RALLIES HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE AS POLITICAL INDICATORS, IT DERIVES FROM THE RELATIVE SIZE AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE ATTENDING CROWDS. THE PLATFORM RHETORIC IS, AT THIS STAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN, RITUALISTIC AND PREDICTABLE. THERE WERE NO ORATORICAL SURPRISES IN MEDELLIN, EXCEPT PERHAPS THE BITTERNESS OF GENERAL ROJAS', DENUNCIATION OF HIS SON GUSTAVO AS A JUDAS AND A MONSTER FOR SUPPORTING THE CONSERVATIVES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SIZE, THE ANAPO RALLY WAS PERHAPS 10-15 PERCENT LARGER THAN ITS DEMONSTRATION IN THE SAME PARK EARLIER IN THE CAMPAIGN (MED. A-24). IF THAT EARLIER RALLY ATTRACTED 20-25,000, THE MARCH 8 RALLY HAD 23-28,000. THE EARLIER RALLY DID NOT OFFER THE ATTRACTION OF GENERAL ROJAS WHO THIS TIME SPOKE FOR 40 MINUTES BEFORE INTRODUCING HIS DAUGHTER. ALL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE SIZE OF THIS ANAPO RALLY WAS FAR INFERIOR

TO THE END-OF-CAMPAIGN ANAPO RALLIES IN 1970 AND 1972. ALSO, THE MOOD OF THE CROWD THROUGHOUT THE RALLY APPEARED TO THE CONSUL TO BE RATHER LISTLESS AND UNENTHUSIASTIC. THE RALLY WOULD APPEAR TO ADD TO THE EVIDENCE THAT ANAPO HAS DECLINED SERIOUSLY IN ANTIOQUIA.

4. THE UNO RALLY WAS NOTABLE FOR THE EARLY AND ENTHUSIASTIC MASSING OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRONT OF THE SPEAKERS PODIUM WHERE THEY CHANTED AND AGITATED MARXIST BANNERS FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS, INCLUDING THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A BRIEF BUT DRENCHING DOWNPOUR. JUDGING FROM THEIR CHANTS AND REACTION TO THE SPEAKERS, THESE YOUNG PEOPLE (FEW OF WHOM CAN BE OF VOTING AGE WERE LARGELY MOIRISTAS. THE CROWD AT THE UNO RALLY APPEARED TO BE APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF THAT OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S ANAPO RALLY, PERHAPS

TOTALLING

12-14,000. LED BY THE HARD CORE OF YOUNG PEOPLE, THE RALLY WAS FAR MORE

VOCIFEROUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC THAN ANAPO'S RALLY. CANDIDATE ECHEVERRI WAS PRECEDED ON THE PODIUM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS OF THE UNO COALITION: GILBERTO ZAPATA ISAZA OF MAC, RICARDO

SAMPER OF MOIR AND GILBERTO VIEIRA OF THE PCC. ALL SPEAKERS WERE RATHER

HARD ON THE US BUT ECHEVERRI SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE OTHERS. ALL IN ALL IT WAS NOT A BAD RALLY FOR UNO, BUT IT FAILED TO CONVINCE THAT

UNO IS IN A POSITION IN ANTIOQUIA TO CHALLENGE EVEN A WEAKENED ANAPO AS THE LEADING OPPOSITION TO THE TWO TRADITIONAL PARTIES.

5. BOTH MANIFESTATIONS WERE PEACEFUL AND CARRIED OUT TOTALLY WITHOUT

INCIDENT.

COOPER

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